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When's the right time for a hearing evaluation? Probably sooner than you think.

As the old story goes, there's good news and bad news about hearing loss. The good news is that the human brain – your brain – is amazingly good at adapting to many different kinds of obstacles, including things like hearing loss. You may be suffering from a slight decline right now and be hardly aware of it, because you've found ways to compensate – simple things like turning your head and leaning forward to hear better; or asking people to repeat what they've said; or waiting for the conversation to move on so you can catch up. Maybe you're adapting by simply avoiding social situations like noisy restaurants and parties, where the background noise makes it so hard to understand the conversation that you really have to strain to hear. Still, by coping and adapting, you feel like you're getting by.

KNOW WHAT YOU'RE MISSING.

So what's the bad news? You may be adapting so well that you don't know what you're missing. You're unaware of lost information, lost opportunities, and the lost energy you spend just trying to keep up. You just know that social situations are more tiring than they used to be. Those embarrassing moments when you don't catch someone's name or some other important bit of information are growing more frequent.

If you're like many people with age-related hearing loss, the condition progresses as you get older. And as it progresses, you work harder to cope, maybe without even realizing it. As good as your brain may be at adapting, the

effort it takes tends to diminish the parts of your life that matter most: **sharing with friends and family, keeping ahead in your business, and spending time out in the community.**

People with advanced hearing loss describe this state as a feeling of isolation, of being trapped. They find it physically and emotionally tiring to strain to hear a conversation in a noisy setting. It's just too hard to make the effort. So they give up.

BREAK THROUGH THE ISOLATION WITH NEW HEARING TECHNOLOGY.

There is help for people with hearing loss: a wonderful array of modern hearing solutions that can make it easier to breakthrough the wall of noise and focus on what's important. Modern hearing technology, like the Agil instrument from Oticon, can not only help bring you back to a fuller and more vibrant social life; it can make things like concerts, radio, telephone and TV much more rewarding experiences than ever before.

But what happens is that people tend to put off getting help later than they should. They adapt a little more, and miss out a little more, every year. They don't realize how much they're struggling, and living increasingly isolated lives.

DON'T LET OLD MYTHS ABOUT HEARING AIDS DELAY YOUR CHANCE AT A FULLER LIFE.

There are a variety of reasons that people put off getting help. The main one is a lack of understanding of what modern hearing

technology is and how it helps. We've found that there are at least three big myths that keep people from trying out hearing technology, putting them on the road to years of frustration and isolation instead of a happier life.



Hearing instruments are just amplifiers... and I don't need more loudness.

Hearing aids used to attempt to help just by upping the volume of every sound. But that's not how it's done today. Devices like Oticon Agil now use the latest breakthroughs in microprocessor design, audio signal processing technology, and materials science, not to indiscriminately raise the volume of what you hear, but to sharpen the focus of what you hear. So you're better able to hone in on a conversation in a wall of party noise, and shift attention from one voice to another as you choose. It becomes easier to understand and respond to a soft, high-pitched voice – a child or an elderly person, for example – because your hearing instrument works to help your brain recognize natural speech cues and keep competing noise less distracting. The new hearing devices even use Bluetooth™ technology which lets you stream sound from a TV, phone, computer, or other Bluetooth device, for a high-end audio entertainment experience.

So this is not your grandmother's ear trumpet. Nor is it your father's case-and-cord hearing aid. Agil is a hearing instrument exquisitely programmable to match your hearing profile and works with your brain to help you hear more naturally, even in difficult hearing situations.



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For news updated daily see www.inportnews.ca

■ **ERYN AIRHARDT:** New PoCoMAR commodore hoping to earn commercial pilot's wings

'You've got to live your life'



ALLAN BENNER
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — There's always been an adventurous side to Eryn Airhardt.

"I like to challenge myself. It's exciting," the 29-year-old Port Colborne resident said.

After a childhood spent around her grandfather Charlie Campbell's airplanes and flying to her family's cottages up north, Airhardt went on to become a pilot herself in 2007. She's now nearing completion of training to earn her commercial pilot's

licence.

"I just have a couple of hours (of flight training) left before I can do my flight test," she said.

Ultimately, Airhardt hoping to land a job as a pilot in northern Ontario.

"That's my dream, to have a floatplane and have my own flying, hunting and fishing outfit."

A few years ago, she started whitewater rafting in British Columbia as a way to conquer a fear of being near water.

see **AIRHARDT** | page 2

ALLAN BENNER Staff Photo
Eryn Airhardt, the new commodore for Port Colborne Marine Auxiliary Rescue, is looking forward to a safe year of boating on Lake Erie.

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■ AIRHARDT

New commodore confident in her crew

FROM PAGE 1

"You've got to love your life. It's the only one you get," said Airhardt, who works for Europort in Fort Erie.

And now, she's leading a team of volunteers that is during enough to venture out on Lake Erie regardless of the weather to rescue boaters who run into trouble among the waves. Airhardt is the new commodore of Port Colborne Marine Auxiliary Rescue (PoCoMAR).

She joined PoCoMAR about three years ago after James Waranike, her flight instructor and friend, told her about the organization. Since then she said playing the waters of lake aboard PoCoMAR's rescue boats is something she's really looked forward to.

"I really enjoy being out on the water and helping people out. It's a good way to spend your summer," she said Saturday from her rural home in Sherston.

Since joining the organization, Airhardt has been called out on several rescue missions, towing disabled boats back to shore. She recalled helping some boaters who were stranded on the rocks in Gravelly Bay after their engine trouble on the lake.

"I like the challenge of it and helping people, she said, adding the people she gets work with have kept her interested in the organization as well.

The volunteer positions requires some commitment from the members. She said

PoCoMAR volunteers are required to spend a minimum of about 10 hours a month in training throughout the year.

The commitment includes weekly training meetings during the winter and once PoCoMAR's boats are launched in the spring, the volunteers each dedicate one night a week to crewing the vessels.

As another season of boating arrives, Airhardt said she's hoping for the best.

"I'm hoping everyone has a good safe boating season," she said.

She said she's also hoping that PoCoMAR's 40 or so members spend the bulk of the season training rather than getting involved in actual rescues.

But if an emergency does arrive on the lake, she said they will be ready to respond if they receive a call for help from the coast guard.

"We'll be there day and night," she said.

PoCoMAR has some vacancies and the organization is looking for new recruits to fill them. The only prerequisite for people interested in signing up is a boating licence.

"The rest of the training you can get through us, like radio licences and all that stuff," she said.

More information is available on PoCoMAR's website: <http://www.ccga-pocomar.ca/>.

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■ HEALTH CARE: Campion appointed to South Niagara Health Care Corp. for Welland amidst criticisms

Shape slams Badawey tactic

ALLAN BENNER
InPort News Staff

WELLAND — The Rose City may benefit from having representation on South Niagara Health Care Corp., but Mayor Barry Shape said the process that led to Ward 2 Coun. Frank Campion's appointment to that organization "has been wrong, wrong from the beginning."

"It has been wrong based on the actions of the mayor of Port Colborne and the president of this corporation," Shape said last week, referring to Vance Badawey.

He said having neighbouring municipalities join the corporation board was important enough to Badawey that the Port Colborne mayor sent a letter to mayors and municipal councilors of Welland, Pelham, Wainfleet and Fort Erie in November, asking that representatives of those communities be appointed.

"He followed it up with a press release," Shape added,



Campion

referring to a document issued Jan. 17 that says representatives of neighbouring communities were invited to join the organization to allow south Niagara "to speak as one voice to ensure that the provisions of equitable access to health-care services are sustainable for the southern tier."

Despite the importance of the issue, Shape pointed out that Badawey only recently said he would personally speak to neighbouring city councils about his plans.

"Not until ... did the mayor say he was even interested in coming to talk to this council. That's what's wrong with this process," Shape said.

The discussion about appointing Campion to the corporation began a week

earlier, but the council meeting's 11 p.m. curfew arrived before the vote could be taken. Councillors picked up the debate where they left off during a special council meeting Tuesday night, held prior to the regularly scheduled general committee meeting.

Shape said Badawey also has not invited Niagara Falls to a representative meeting, "which is another southern Niagara community affected by the hospital improvement plan and the challenges involved."

Shape added that both Port Erie and Pelham chose not to respond "with a knee-jerk." Yes, we want to be part of a south Niagara health care corporation."

Wainfleet township council appointed Ald. Betty Kunc to the corporation earlier this year.

Shape said he has seen nothing indicating that the objectives of the corporation have changed since it was first established in response to

Niagara Health System's hospital improvement plan in 2008.

"The objectives dealt solely with Port Colborne and Wainfleet," Shape said.

Rather than debating the request from Badawey during a city council meeting, Shape said it should have first been referred to Welland's health-care committees for discussion and recommendation.

Shape said that discussion could have also included the tripartite committee, a group including representation from regional council, the NHS board and the Local Health Integration Network to review the implementation of the hospital improvement plan.

"If you read the latest communiqué in public from Mayor Badawey, it's his latest concern to re-establish the tripartite corporation," Shape said.

"The process has been so badly flawed that I can't vote in favour of doing something that probably might make sense if ... we had followed the proper process."

'I'm not about to play politics with this'

that are being experienced by the patients on a daily basis," he added.

The Port Colborne mayor was responding to comments made by Shape at a special Welland city council meeting which Shape criticized the process Badawey employed while asking neighbouring south Niagara municipalities to appoint representatives to the corporation,

which Port Colborne initially formed in response to Niagara Health System's hospital improvement plan.

"I'm not sure what he's making comment on when he's never been to a meeting or actually has been involved in the process," Badawey said.

"But I'm not about to play politics with this. I'm not going to comment on Barry's comments. What I would advise

Barry to do is to simply come out to a meeting and learn as I have in the last decade and a half about health care. ...

Instead of making an assumption, as he obviously did (Tuesday) night, come out and see what the reality is and how this corporation is actually showing leadership to provide strategies, not to satisfy his concerns but to satisfy the concerns of the patients."

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portraits

■ **ACCOLADES:** Claudia Brema is such a great volunteer that she's again in the limelight

She's citizen of the year – again

MARYANNE FIRTH
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Claudia Brema cares for her community.

That was apparent when she was named citizen of the year in 2002 by Port Colborne-Wainfleet Chamber of Commerce, and it was still an undeniable fact 10 years later when the organization again awarded her the title received by so few.

Brema was named citizen of the year at the chamber's annual awards ceremony April 4 at the Guild Hall.

"It was very nice to be recognized," said the 60-year-old Port Colborne resident, who was surprised to be nominated, let alone have won for a second time.

"It feels wonderful to think someone takes the time to go through the whole process," Brema said, crediting the efforts of her nominators Pam Swick Janjac of Port Cares and Donna Martens Gamm of Giant FM.

Brema called the award a "nice accolade," one she feels humbled by.

"I'm sure all of the nominees are worthy of the award," she added.

Since first accepting the title of citizen of the year a decade ago, Brema has expanded her horizons in the volunteering world.

She retired from her 37-year job at Port Colborne hospital three years ago and has filled her schedule with volunteer work for various organizations throughout the community.

Along with continuing her longtime efforts with Port Cares and the Port Colborne Hospital Foundation, Brema sits on the Bridges Community Health Centre board, makes weekly deliveries for Meals on Wheels and volunteers for Canal Days.

Martin Heidegger Festival — just to name a few.

Her schedule is now carefully planned to accommo-



File Photo

Claudia Brema was named citizen of the year by Port Colborne-Wainfleet Chamber of Commerce.

date her many meetings and fundraising events, sometimes with several in one day.

Brema's volunteering efforts all began in the 1980s when she was invited by a neighbour to attend a meeting of the Port Colborne Lionsess. From there, she

worked to fill the gaps in the community wherever she could.

If someone was looking for a volunteer, she was there.

If they needed participants, she was happy to oblige.

But it seems the need to assist in the community runs

in the family.

"It's in our blood," Brema said with a laugh, recalling her father's involvement with St. John Ambulance and her mother's part in creating Arabella's Tea Room.

"If everyone did their part, the community would benefit greatly."

■ **ACCOLADES:** Stefanie Klingbeil top youth

Lakeshore leaders earn laurels

MARYANNE FIRTH
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — It was a night to say thank you to people who give back to the community.

Port Colborne-Wainfleet Chamber of Commerce hosted its annual President's Award Reception April 4, at the Guild Hall to honour volunteers, business owners and youths who make a difference in the area.

A sold-out crowd turned up to see the awards handed out in recognition of outstanding achievements by area businesses and individuals in the fields of commerce, community work and volunteering.

"We were thrilled to see the increase in nominations this year," said Pat Ruzzycki-Stirling, the chamber's newly-elected president.

In total, 11 businesses were in the running for business of the year, four young women for youth citizen of the year and three individuals for citizen of the year.

"They all deserve the awards," Ruzzycki-Stirling said. "Their hard work, volunteer activity and love of their communities was showcased in their nomination applications."

The nominees "make us proud to be fellow citizens in our two communities," she added.

Ultimately, it was long-time community volunteer Claudia Brema who was named citizen of the year, while Port Colborne's The Smokin' Buddha took the top business honour.

It felt cool to be recognized," said Klingbeil, who has invested more than 600 hours of her time into the

community, volunteering at her church, St. Therese, and at Port Colborne's Italian Canadian Hall, while tutoring elementary school students in both math and English.

Despite all her busy schedule, the 17-year-old maintains her status as an honour roll student at the Janet St. high school. She plans to continue giving back to the community, even after beginning her post-secondary career at Brock University in September.

The Smokin' Buddha owner Kevin Echlin called it "quite an honour" to be recognized by fellow business owners.

While the restaurant operates mainly out of its King St. home-based, Smokin' Buddha's staff also

set up shop at several local farmers' markets, including in Wetland.

Echlin ensures the restaurant has involvement in the community by working with local schools and sports teams.

"Being community-based is a must," he said, adding it's a mindset instilled in him at a young age.

"If you're good to your community, they'll be good to you," he said.

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Klingbeil



Echlin

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Ourview

Sending a message

It is detractors called it "stupid," illegal and unenforceable, but Wainfleet council went ahead and passed a bylaw calling for a two-kilometre setback for wind turbines from residential homes.

The bylaw had been under discussion for about two months and had been lawyers for Rankin Renewable Power Inc. sent letters and appear before council stating its opposition to it. Rankin Renewable Power is now a partner with Wainfleet Wind Energy Inc., owned by the Loeffen brothers, in a project to build a number of industrial wind turbines in the township.

Rankin lawyers said in their legal opinion the township does not have the legal authority to pass such a bylaw. Under the Planning Act, council does have the authority to regulate setbacks of buildings and structures. However, under the Green Energy Act, the section of the Planning Act that gave council that authority was amended, exempting renewable energy projects.

That means council would have to defer to provincial regulations for wind turbines and distance to noise receptors. The setback, under the Green Energy Act, as it stands now is 550 metres away from residential homes.

Wainfleet alderman and the mayor have said they are doing what is right for the citizens they represent and wanted to see proof that a setback of 550 metres would not cause any harm to residents. Residents living near wind turbines across the province have complained about feeling sick and being bothered by the noise of the industrial wind blades spinning.

Council has a duty to protect its residents, and while Niagara's and Ontario's chief medical officers of health have both said there are no adverse effects from wind turbines, alderman and the mayor don't buy it.

Not do residents. That's why they'd like to see more studies done before the turbines are installed. We understand a two-kilometre setback is not what wind turbine proponents want to see because it could mean no turbines anywhere in Wainfleet, or at least none in the wind locations. The proponents are also right that Wainfleet doesn't have the legal authority to enforce such a bylaw. That power was stripped from all municipalities by the provincial government.

What Wainfleet does have is the moral and ethical authority to pass the bylaw that it did last week.

The mayor and alderman were elected to represent the people of Wainfleet. If the people of Wainfleet don't feel safe with wind turbines set back 550 metres from their homes, then council has a duty and obligation to do something about it.

We hope Wainfleet's decision inspires other communities with concerns about the Green Energy Act to follow suit.

By passing the bylaw, council is sending a message to the province and we hope the province hears it loud and clear.

■ TURBINE DEBATE: Fear mongering and misinformation?

Wind energy a viable alternative

The use of wind as a source of power has been around for centuries and the Dutch powered water pumps, grist mills and even factories with wind.

It is only natural this would lead to the use of wind to generate electricity. In Canada and North America they are relatively new, with the first wind farm being built in Pincher Creek, Alta., in 2002. While most European countries use windmills extensively to generate power Denmark and Germany are the leading countries with close to 20% of their total generation of electricity coming from wind.

The Germans look at wind far differently than most. They feel the user price paid for fossil fuels does not show the hidden costs of burning fossil fuels — the cost of health care that can be directly attributable to their wide spread use. They show in their calculations that wind energy is actually cheaper when one considers the impact of pollution, smog and harmful toxins given off in the atmosphere.

That is why it is not completely surprising the German government recently announced the closing of all 16 of its nuclear plants in light of the recent situation in Japan.

How are they going to replace this lost generation? They are hoping to develop offshore wind in the North Sea. While Germany is not in the same high-risk earthquake zone many of the Asian countries are in, it is in a higher risk area that is causing them to rethink their plans.

Our company has worked at Bruce Power in Kincardine for the past 10 years and our experience is nuclear power in Ontario is very safe and should continue to be used to generate our base load requirements, approximately 50% of our total demand. But do not expect we will be buying electricity for three cents a kilowatt or less. All of the plants in Ontario are going to be replaced by new coal requirements, approximately 50% of our total demand. But do not expect we will be buying electricity for three cents a kilowatt or less. All of the plants in Ontario are going to be replaced by new coal requirements, approximately 50% of our total demand.

Why do I not dislike nuclear? It is clean and does not pollute. There is a problem with the required storage of spent fuel rods and the threat of the fuel getting into the wrong hands. But I think it provides a good mix for Ontario and advantages overcome disadvantages.

Undoubtedly hydro generation is the number one source of electricity from a cost perspective. It is a clean, renewable energy and Ontario is fortunate to have great resources. But new developments of hydro generation on the horizon are very



Tom Rankin
GUEST COLUMN

limited in Ontario because most of the major resources have been developed.

Hydro power provides about 25% of our electricity. But even producing electricity from hydro is going to be far more expensive than the 3 cents per kilowatt hours of bygone years.

In fact the new tunnel at Sir Adam Beck costing \$1.6 billion to produce enough electricity for 160,000 homes will cost more than electricity generated from windmills. The other advantage of windmills is the investment is made 100% by the developer and there is no expenditure by the province. The \$20-plus-billion debt for building the tunnel, however, would be repaid by us and we are still making interest payments. If Ontario was to fund all the new electricity generation the debt would be great the province would lose its present rating and we would be on a serious downhill spiral.

So why choose wind to fill the void left from the 50% nuclear 25% hydro generation? Between wind, biomass, solar and natural gas that 25% could be filled. Ontario's goal is 10,700 megawatts of electricity from wind; 10% by 2015. Other provinces are more aggressive, with Prince Edward Island hoping to generate 75% of its electricity from renewable by 2020, and Nova Scotia 40% by 2020. Quebec has not set a goal but presently have 2,000 megawatts being built, approximately 5% of its present capacity. Alberta and British Columbia have some grid problems but are continually building wind farms.

My interest in green asthma was kindled by a family doctor of mine. The fact that many children now have asthma, the fact two of my own

grandchildren have asthma but it has not been seen in my family before, the number of seniors who die in Toronto every year during smog days — these things made me realize how polluted our atmosphere is. Of course, the threat of global warming with all its implications weighed on me heavily also.

Why would one not use something as free as the wind instead of continually burning fossil fuels with their pollution problems. Add the fact there is a finite quantity of fossil fuels.

Civilization has been around for

thousands of years — surely we should not be consuming the rate of oil that we presently do if we hope civilization should carry on. Surely we should be looking to the future as stewards of the earth and not be looked back upon as the greedy and selfish generation who cared for the moment only.

I think the overwhelming evidence is global warming is a fact of life. David Suzuki has stated that only 10% of research does not support the conclusion climate change is taking place and is being driven by human activity. In other words the overwhelming evidence is global warming is the result of the excessive volume of carbon dioxide we discharge to the atmosphere.

Richard Philip, a former professor at the University of Western Ontario, has stated: "There is no lab experiment to test the hypotheses that human activity contributes to global warming. There will always be criticism by skeptics. To that, however, is taking on the appearance of Nero fiddling while Rome burns. Only this time Rome is Earth."

My interest in wind made me do my due diligence to ensure I was on the right track. I travelled extensively and visited wind energy manufacturers of wind mills and spoke to residents close to wind farms. I visited Germany, the Netherlands, Spain and California. I checked their standards, I talked to residents living close by. I talked to farmers who had windmills for many years and I always came back with the same conclusion — windmills are safe, they are harmless and the people like them.

Why all the anger in Ontario in some rural communities? Why has Chatham-Kent endorsed them while heartedly while Wainfleet and the township of Niagara?

Township of West Lincoln think otherwise? I say for the most part misinformation is the main problem.

They say they are concerned with noise while Wainfleet and the township of Niagara generates far more noise and many local residential streets are comparable to the noise from a windmill.

I recently talked to a developer of a new wind farm in California. He told me he built his first wind farm in 1981. He said the noise and health issues are nonexistent in his state. He is building a new wind farm where windmills will be 1,500 feet from residential areas, although he could be as close as 1,200 feet. The standard in Ontario is 550 metres, which is 1,804 feet away, the highest setback in the world.

see RANKIN | page 5

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■ RANKIN

Scare tactics against windmills hold no weight

FROM PAGE 4

We visited city hall in Palm Springs where they have thousands of windmills. They said they were happy with their standard of 1,200 feet between windmills and residences. Are we going to ban the motorcycle because it makes for more noise than a windmill?

The chief medical officer of health for the province of Ontario has no concern with windmills. They have been endorsed by several regulatory bodies including Ontario nurses and doctors.

At a recent environmental hearing over the Kent Breeze wind farm in Chatham-Kent the anti-wind group brought in all the anti-wind heavyweights from around the world and they were resoundingly beaten at the hearing.

There have been reports of sleeping disorders in Grey Bruce along Lake Huron but I take them with a grain of salt. Pretty well all residents in that area are against wind generation because many have high-paying jobs at the Bruce Nuclear Plant and feel wind generation will take capacity on the grid that will prevent future expansion of nuclear.

The effects of windmills on property values is another scare tactic with no substantiation. Our studies

have indicated that where wind farms have been built in Ontario property values continued to increase over the years.

I consider the generation of wind energy like motherhood and apple pie. Wind energy does not cause pollution, it does not contribute to global warming.

The state of California has mandated that there be 1.5 million electric cars on the road by 2020. The first electric cars are coming to Ontario and we have one in our fleet. They are expensive at the moment but so were televisions when they first hit the market. The cost of running electronic cars is substantially less than a gasoline-driven automobile, and I predict that in five years they will be very competitive with gasoline driven automobiles.

Recent studies in the U.S. show 80% of residents in favour of wind energy and studies in Canada have shown similar results. Even in Wainfleet a study carried out for us indicates two-thirds of the people are in favour of wind and renewable energy. I am sure our children who are the future of this country will be much better stewards of this Earth than the present generation. Global warming is with us now. The extremes of weather throughout the

world have been profound. Unusual flooding and droughts have been

occurring in many countries in the world including Canada.

see RANKIN | page 6



COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE AND COUNCIL MEETING

2012 WATER AND WASTEWATER BUDGET MONDAY, APRIL 23, 2012 – 6:30 P.M.

The Council of the City of Port Colborne will consider the 2012 Water and Wastewater Budget as part of the Regular Committee of the Whole and Council Meeting on Monday, April 23, 2012, commencing at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 66 Charlotte Street, Port Colborne.

Members of the public are invited to attend the meeting and speak to the proposed Water and Wastewater Rates.

The staff report, Corporate Services Division Report #2012-15 respecting the proposed rates, will be available on the City's website – www.portcolborne.ca.

Peter M. Senese

Director of Community and Corporate Services/
City Treasurer

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RANKIN

Power should be produced 85% of the time in Wainfleet

FROM PAGE 4

Many sea coasts state have maps to show projected new water depths. One-hundred-year storms are occurring at intervals far shorter than every 100 years. Most municipal storm sewer design manuals are outdated. Since 1970 the cost of natural disasters has gone up 20 times.

Our firm has built 15 wind farms in Ontario and most of my 340 employees come from Niagara. This industry has created thousands of jobs in this province both in manufacturing and construction. One firm has announced its intention to locate in Niagara and permanent jobs are not

only created in construction but manufacturing and maintenance as well.

The eight windmills we built called the Kent Breeze farm will have four full time employees looking after maintenance, three of them working for General Electric. General Electric has a policy that they want back up for safety reasons.

Another knock on windmills is they do not always produce electricity. Our meteorological tower in Wainfleet showed we will produce electricity 85% of the time. Yes you need backup, but surely it is better to be burning a fossil fuel such as natural gas 25% of the day rather than all day.

The increase in electricity costs in Ontario has been blamed on renewable energy projects by the right wing element. The fact is only a small fraction of the increase in costs can be attributed to wind. The price of wind energy is dropping while all conventional sources of energy are increasing, and the wind prices are firm for 20 years.

The fear mongering in our society about wind energy is not substantiated by the worldwide experience gained on windmills, nor is there any scientific evidence to prove the naysayers are right.

Thomas Rankin, P. Eng. is CEO of Rankin Construction Inc.

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■ **I'VE BEEN THINKING**

Pilgrims progress part two: the power of prayer

INTERIM PASTOR**GARY TOMLUCK**
Wainfleet Congregational
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A few weeks ago we looked at the Pilgrims Progress. Today I would like to examine the second half of this story, with respect to Christian's wife Christina.

When Christian warned her and his family to flee from the wrath to come she laughed at Him thinking that He was out of His mind until God changed her heart. This is encouraging as you may have loved ones who will not receive Christ in your own lifetime but after you depart from this world your prayers, your testimony, the way you live your life can bear eternal fruit. Be patient, be holy, suffering... God's timing is always perfect.

Now Christina's thoughts

began to work in her mind as she remembered how she steeled her heart against her husband yet remembered what a good man he had been.

She then cried out "Oh wretched woman that I am-what shall I do to be saved?" She then repents. Not long after there is a knock at Christina's door. A man opened from the door and his name was Secret. He said, "I came from among those who dwell with Christian upon high."

She said please tell my husband that I am on my way. And then she received a Golden Letter and her son read it out loud. "The King of the Celestial city would have you Christina to do as your husband did, for that is the way to come to the city and to dwell in His Presence with joy forever."

So she tells her children-

let us pack up and go to the wicket gate, it leads to the Celestial city where we shall see you there. Then she like Christian before her has people who tried to dissuade her from leaving. One Mrs. Timorous who says "you should have put your husband in the nouthouse." Christina says, "He suffered under conviction from God as I do now." And just as surely as the devil puts evil people in our path to discourage us, to dissuade us from following the Lord, God also puts people in our lives to encourage us, and to strengthen us for our own journey.

One such person is called Mercy who says to Christina as she comes to the Slow of Despond "this may be like the flooding Jordan which will not open to us until we step into the waters." And as they go

through the Wicket Gate the Gatekeeper took them to the top of the wall from where they could see a skull-shaped hill with a cross and a man hanging on it. As she cries, she is told that this is the ransom paid for her soul-for you are precious in His sight.

And as they journey on, a man named Greatheart is said to protect and guide them. They climb the Hill Difficulty and become exhausted and thirsty. There was a boulder, its base was split with crystal clear water gushing out. This is the Rock which followed the children of Israel in their wilderness wanderings. And this Rock is Christ.

The Pilgrims are welcomed at the House Beautiful and Christina finds a letter on her bed. It is from Christian and it reads, "My dearest Christina,

I write this letter to you in faith believing that my prayers for you have been answered. What lies ahead I cannot tell you, but I do believe that if he which had begun a good work in you shall finish it. There is a greater husband than I who years for you with the Love stronger than death. Be faithful especially in the little things."

And then as they cross that River looking beyond Christina said "I see that head which was crowned with thorns and that face that was spit upon with my spittle." And the heavenly hosts gave a shout saying blessed is She who has accepted the invitation to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. Christina felt herself to be in heaven even before she came up to its gates.

A Diadem of Glory was placed upon her head and

the King said "Well done my good and faithful servant, enter into the Joy of the Lord." She wept for joy and then cast that crown before His feet. Truly eye has not seen nor ear heard nor mind imagined the Glories of this place. Christina says "Bless Him and Bless you my husband for I am here by the power of your prayers."

Oh you cannot the joy of Christian with Christina as he beheld his wife of his youth standing before him in the glow of eternal health together again the Best of Friends. Redeem to give praises to their Maker and King throughout the countless Ages of Eternity.

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COLUMN

Residents encouraged to understand flood plain mapping process

Lately we've been consumed with so many high profile issues here in Wainfleet and one in particular has had a lot of time and attention devoted to it, and yet many of those affected don't seem to be aware of it, or its implications.

I am referencing the new hundred-year flood plain levels proposed for the Welland River by the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority.

Flood levels are evaluated and implemented based on the prospective hundred year storm. These levels were last adjusted in 1985 and the NPCA hired an engineer last year to re-evaluate the modeling. The result of this reassessment produced significant changes to the flood plain lines along the Welland River starting from the headwaters of the river in West Lincoln through Wainfleet, Pelham and Welland.

The NPCA's process in this instance does not entertain public consultation until after the lines are implemented as it is a scientific process. No notification to residents is required. That certainly didn't bode well with a few river dwellers here in Wainfleet when they made an application for a permit back in December and were told the line increase and lack of public input. At that time the Township was contacted by residents asking us to take charge and notify people of the forthcoming change. Council agreed as we felt it was extremely unjust to let people remain unaware of a change that impacted them so severely.

It is important to understand these changes are not being implemented by the township; rather the NPCA is the sole agency in Niagara for flood plain mapping. Having said that, the township is not sitting idly by. In January we sent notifications to 268 property owners along the river in Wainfleet informing them of the specific percentage increases to their property. People certainly weren't happy. Following the notification, several private citizens held a public meeting to gather residents and discuss the situation. Also that month, it was suggested by NPCA staff at the Jan. 18 board meeting the implementation of the lines be suspended as they had found some anomalies with the modeling and were having it reviewed once again. Full



April Jeffs
MAYOR'S COLUMN

implementation of the lines will be coming before the board to decide on in June.

Flood plain mapping, and the studies behind it, is a very complicated issue. I encourage all residents of Wainfleet to become engaged in this process to learn how their property may be affected. At the very least residents should contact the folks that have started the Welland River Floodplain Committee, a group of local citizens that have banded together in an effort to have the Conservation Authority take a sober second look at the new mapping and the impacts on landowners.

That brings me to my next point, the impacts could be enormous. Soon after implementation, the new mapping will put restrictions on landowners' private property that could prohibit some construction. This means that owners of vacant land may never be able to build their dream homes, farmers may not be able to add barns to their farming operations, and growing families may not be able to add space to their houses to accommodate their needs. Neither Wainfleet council nor the conservation authority can assure landowners that their property values, insurance policies, and property zoning will be maintained once the new flood plain mapping is approved; this could have a significant impact on owners and is the reason I implore you to become informed.

In summary, the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority is a quasi-governmental agency made up of many hard-working employees that does not have an elected council. The NPCA is, however, governed by an appointed board of directors that is made up of elected officials from the various municipalities in Niagara as well as citizens at large. Affected residents should become engaged in the process now in order to influence the outcome so that a decision is that reflective of all of our needs is the ultimate result.

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■ COLUMN

The old debate of quality vs. quantity

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We even have one-stop shops like Walmart, where you can cross off essentially everything off your 'To Do List. Groceries? Check. Back-to-school shopping for clothes and supplies? Check. Purchase a big-screen TV? Check. And if you need a haircut, you can get that there too.

Our lifestyle has sold us on convenience, and we are convinced by advertisements that the bigger, the better.

Why, as a society, do we allow ourselves to put quantity



Michèle Pressé
CANADIAN
GIRL/ITALIAN
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over quality?

And most importantly, why don't we feel good about ourselves afterwards rather than a feeling of pleasure and satisfaction?

Canadians simply do not know how to enjoy life.

By enjoying, I don't mean eating an entire bag of chips while watching a marathon of your favourite show for four hours.

I mean real enjoyment.

The kind of enjoyment and pleasure that one gets from taking a nap in the middle of the day, or by spending your day off in a sunny spot of the park reading your favourite book instead of running errands and visiting your in-laws (sorry).

The Italians seem to have mastered the art of enjoyment. In the morning, they religiously drink a strong cup of cappuccino, eat a large breakfast, and leave for work. At around noon, they come home for several hours. This whole period is their lunch break.

They are free to enjoy a slow,

healthy lunch and a glass or two of red wine. Then they read a book, smoke a cigarette (OK, minus 5 points for the Italians), and take a nap.

Then they go back to work on their tiny vespas and come home again to enjoy another delicious meal with their famiglia.

In Canada, most people skip breakfast entirely because we're either in a rush or because we're attempting to lose weight by skipping a meal. Doing this is a big mistake, because your brain needs fuel in order to start the day, and skipping a meal will only make you hungrier.

This is why so many people feel tired and on edge first thing in the morning, and then scarf down a greasy meal for their lunch from McDonald's within the span of a half hour. Then, come time for dinner, we eat another unbalanced meal with our families, but not without the TV playing.

Why don't Canadians feel entitled to enjoyment and a good lifestyle when, as human beings, it's a part of our essential health and happiness?

Although it would be drastic to change our lifestyle entirely in the course of one day, it's important to introduce

pleasure into our every day life, even if it's something small.

Instead of drinking your cup of coffee while standing up in the kitchen, take it on your front porch to enjoy the spring weather and jogger's passing by.

Change your screensaver to a photo of a happy memory with someone you love or a natural scene rather than the generic Windows or Apple background.

And, most importantly, don't feel guilty for satisfying that dark chocolate craving, as long as it's in moderation. Like red wine, that, too, is also good for the heart.

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For example... research shows that most people suffer somewhere between two to five colds per year. The common cold is caused by the rhinovirus, making antibiotics (which only fight bacteria), as an ineffective solution. Clinical studies show however, that taking garlic with allicin, produces very healthful benefits in terms of prevention (so you have less chance of catching anything), treatment (to help you feel better if you do get sick) and it helps to reduce the chances of re-infection (remember the two to five colds a year?).



Until quite recently, the health promoting properties of garlic remained a bit of a mystery. Studies now show that when the garlic clove is crushed, two molecules — named allicin and alliinase come in contact with each other to rapidly form the compound allicin. Consuming stabilized allicin creates an all-out attack on a wide spectrum of micro-organisms, naturally (without side effects) and very effectively.

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■ **EDUCATION:** Students certified in forklift operation

Getting a lift in the job market

MERIEU YOUSFI
For InPort News

WELLAND — With real world skills and certification in propane-powered forklift operation in hands, 31 Niagara high school students can start their professional life.

Students from Port Colborne High School,

Thorold Secondary School and South Lincoln High School in Smithville joined Eastdale Secondary School students in Welland last week for forklift certificate training which comprises written and practical tests.

"The training is mandatory by the government, the safety access will be done by everyone who operates the

forklift and they learn about the propane safety aspects required," said Mike Ferrelli, the training facilitator and a transportation teacher at Port High.

Forklift certification consists of five hours of in-class lessons over three days and a driving test. Each student must score a minimum 80% grade on a 50-question

exam and pass the driving test to obtain a certificate.

The certificate is a requirement of a specialist high skills major program that prepares high school students for industrial jobs.

Merieu Yousfi is a Niagara College journalism student on co-op placement at The Tribune.



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■ HIRING PRACTICES

Nepotism vs. discrimination

EDDIE CHAU
InPort News Staff

WAINFLEET — The township is an equal opportunity employer to its summer help.

And that includes all youths of the municipality, including those whose parents work for the township.

Aldermen approved of a report that focused on the

hiring of youths for summer student employment. Council was asked for direction on the hiring policy after concerns were voiced to township staff over the choice of candidates for the positions.

In the past the municipality had hired children of employees to fill the spots, but it was perceived as nepotism and unfair to outside applicants.

On the flip side, not allowing the hiring of employees' children may be considered discriminatory in nature.

Council adopted an option to only permit the hiring of children of employees if the position is not directly a subordinate to their parents' position.

Ald. Richard Dykstra wondered whether there was pre-

cedence set in the past over the hiring of employees' children or whether candidates were hired based on qualifications.

Operations director Greg Wuisman said employees' children have been hired in the past, but all applications are considered.

"We pick the best candidate. Whether they are related to staff or not," Wuisman said.

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■ **PUBLIC MEETING:** Residents concerned program could be a burden

'Fleeters scoff at \$550 sewage system inspection fee

EDDIE CHAU
InPort News Staff

WAINFLEET — Five hundred and fifty dollars is a lot of money for some people.

It is especially to residents living in Wainfleet's boil-water advisory area who might have to shell out the amount every three years for a mandatory sewage system inspection.

At a public meeting, more than 80 people packed township council chambers to give their two cents' worth about the proposed inspection fees.

Township operations director Greg Wuisman said the \$550 fee covers an inspection by which municipal staff will visit a residence to look at everything from plumbing fixtures and septic beds to treatment tanks and leaching beds to ensure everything is compliant with the Ontario Building Code.

"It's nonintrusive. We won't be breaking out any shovels or breaking pipes," Wuisman said. "That will be left to Phase 2 inspections."

A second inspection phase will be conducted if something is found to be an area of concern during the first inspection.

Any further inspections will be conducted by third-party companies at a separate cost.

Along with the mandated inspection

fee, the township is looking to charge \$500 for leaching bed repairs and \$400 for any real estate inquiries that include sewage system inspections.

Golf Course Rd. resident Ann Hasznosy said she cannot see an upside for the township to charge \$550 for an inspection when many qualified independent companies will do the same task and bill significantly less.

"A lot of them will do it for \$150 to \$200," Hasznosy said.

Wuisman said there will be consistency when work is done by township staff. Information about each inspection will also be logged into a database for records, he said.

Laurie Dayboll of Lakeshore Rd. said she had a family member who had a full septic tank inspection done at a cost substantially less than \$550.

"I feel the burden of that fall in this area if the costs of it being done by the private sector is less," Dayboll said. "It's like comparing apples to apples. Five hundred is a lot to bear for an inspection."

Frankie Memme of Deserai Rd. wondered if septic tank inspections will continue to work if the conditions of the aquifer improved and the boil water advisory is lifted. Memme is concerned the program will be a burden to taxpayers if it's not being utilized.

■ **WIND ENERGY:** Setback bylaw approved

Township prepared to fight turbine proponents

EDDIE CHAU
InPort News Staff

WAINFLEET — If it's a fight they want, it's a fight they'll get.

Proponents of industrial wind turbines will certainly get a battle from the Township of Wainfleet after its council passed the third reading of a bylaw prescribing a minimum two-kilometre setback distance for any turbines if constructed within the municipality's boundaries.

The bylaw, which also calls for compensation for any property value loss or adverse health effects, was deemed unlawful by lawyers representing Rankin Renewable Power Inc., proponents of the technology, because they claim it would be hard to enforce.

With a large representation of the community opposed to wind energy coming to Wainfleet, Mayor April Jeffs said the municipality is prepared to fight for what it believes is right.

"We recently received correspondence

suggesting that our council was impeding democracy by passing this bylaw," Jeffs said. "There is absolutely nothing democratic about a governing body (read the province) taking complete control over something that can completely alter a community."

"Listening to the concerns of our residents and acting on their behalf. That is democracy plain and simple."

Jeffs said if proponents decide to pursue legal action because of the bylaw, they would essentially be fighting "against their own neighbours."

The mayor said council had struggled in the past on having wind energy in Wainfleet. Supporting a moratorium on the matter and deferring decisions on wind energy to gather feedback from the community were just a few things council implemented in order to seek more information about the technology and its impact on the community.

Still, the Green Energy Act prevents municipalities from making local decisions on projects such as turbines.

■ **POLITICS:** Luncheon serves up a rehash of hunger for jobs and growth

Mayors focused on economy

ALLAN BENNER
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — South Niagara's six mayors set their difference aside last week to focus on one issue that extends beyond municipal borders — the economy.

Each of the mayors — Jim Diodati from Niagara Falls, Barry Sharpe from Welland, Doug Martin from Fort Erie, Vance Badawey from Port Colborne, Dave Augustyn from Pelham and April Jeffs from Wainfleet — discussed different aspects of South Niagara's economy, from industrial growth to agriculture.

But job creation was the underlying theme throughout the Mayors of South Niagara Luncheon organized by the chambers of commerce from throughout south Niagara, held at the Italian Canadian Cultural Centre in Port Colborne.

Although a recent disagreement between Sharpe and Badawey concerning appointing representatives to South Niagara Health Care Corp. was a topic of conversation for many of the roughly 225 people in the audience, there was only one passing reference to it during the presentation.

"If there is any trouble," Sharpe quipped at the start of his presentation, "I just want everyone to know that Coun. Jim Larouche will be playing the role of Dave Senko and I'm Gretzky."

He was referring to the Edmonton Oilers' left winger who earned a reputation as Wayne Gretzky's bodyguard during the 1980s. Larouche, a Welland Ward 6 councillor, was one of several local politicians in the audience.

Sharpe said there have been successes in south Niagara when it comes to job creation and investment, such as \$90-permanent jobs and a \$50-million investment by Welded Tube Canada, Great Lakes Biodiesel in Dain City and Ontario Solar Manufacturing Corp. all in Welland and Thurston Machine's expansion in Port Colborne.

There have, however, also been recent setbacks such as the closure of Universal Resource Recovery last summer, and the loss of 35 recycling plant jobs there.

"It's estimated that there are 20,000 new jobs in Ontario based on green energy today. The target, the province has said, is for 50,000 new jobs," Sharpe said, adding those additional 30,000 new jobs will likely be a reality by 2013.

"Niagara has always been the green energy capital of Ontario, and will continue to be. Many of those 30,000 jobs will be right here in Niagara," Sharpe added.

Badawey said governments need to work with business leaders to make it easier for businesses "to create jobs that are so desperately needed throughout the entire region."

Although "there's no magic huller" to create jobs, Badawey told the audience that included business and industry leaders that there are many initiatives being developed throughout the entire region.

He said regional Chair Gary Burroughs, who joined the mayors for the luncheon, asked Niagara's economic gateway committee "to bring forward economic strategies that focus on creating jobs and attracting investment."

"The objective is to create the necessary investment climate through the implementation of targeted incentives," such as infrastructure improvements to make employment lands more attractive and strategic marketing efforts for specific sectors.

Community improvement plans (CIPs) are another tool for attracting investment, said Augustyn.

"We keep talking about this because it works in communities," he said.

For every dollar that the governments invest in programs to entice development, the private sector spends \$9, Pelham's mayor added.

Jeffs said CIPs are now being expanded to include rural areas. She said CIPs have traditionally been "very successfully" applied for urban renewal efforts, "but they don't necessarily apply to a place in Wainfleet."

"We are now taking the tool to a new non-traditional level to support our rural economy," Jeffs said. "We have heard loud and clear the Niagarans truly value the rural character of the region."

Diodati discussed the network of transportation within the region, and the opportunities it presents for economic growth — such as the benefits of Niagara Transit, the Welland Canal, the airports and GO Train service.

He said regional council unanimously supported a resolution to bring the GO Train directly to Niagara Falls, "and our objective is 2015."

"What a great opportunity," he said. "We're becoming the playground for the GTA and other areas."

Niagara's two airports, he added, have yet to reach their full potential.

"Big business investors don't have time to land in Toronto and travel here. They want to land right in the area and do the work they need to do. The same with entertainment in the area. You can see the benefit of having this in the region as well."



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■ inPortbriefs

CITY TO PROMOTE ITSELF AT FORUM

PORT COLBORNE — The City of Port Colborne will be promoting itself at the annual Niagara Industrial Buyer Seller Forum and Tradeshow next month.

Taking place May 9 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. at the Scotiabank

Convention Centre, 6815 Stanley Ave. in Niagara Falls,

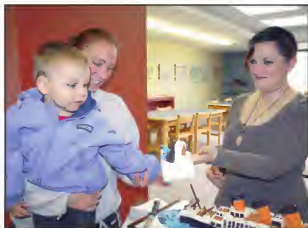
The event brings together manufacturers, service providers and stakeholders to discuss emerging opportunities for Ontario businesses within the country's growing energy sector.

The City of Port Colborne will have

space at the trade show to profile the community and its businesses. Businesses can display their information on a first-come, first-served basis.

Anyone interested in showcasing their businesses at the trade show can call Karen Walsh at 905-834-1668, ext. 244.

■ CREATIVE CAKE: Baker prepares 100th anniversary dessert



VICTORIA GRAY Staff Photo

Lesley Hill and her son, Weston, enjoy a piece of cake that Leslie Edwards, owner of Sugar and Spice Confectionery, made in the shape of the Titanic for the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the cruise liner. The cake was for people to see and taste at Port Colborne Public Library on Friday, an addition to the library's display of books and memorabilia.

A Titanic treat

VICTORIA GRAY
inPort News Staff

the *Titanic* so, I thought this would be great."

The cake complemented the library's showcase of *Titanic* memorabilia donated by Bob Canuel.

"I think people are interested in the *Titanic* because (people said it couldn't sink) and also, maybe more so, they are interested in the social aspects," Canuel said. "There was a lot of social stratification with social classes."

Librarian Valerie Cotton said she thinks people in Port Colborne are especially interested in the history of the *Titanic* because of it being a marine town and those stories often resonate for people.

"The *Titanic*'s failure resonates for a lot of people and it sparks people's imaginations," she said. "And of course, it's the library's job to help spark the imagination."

The *Titanic* hit an iceberg at 11:40 p.m. on April 14, 1912, 600 km from Newfoundland. The ship sunk at 2:20 a.m. on April 15. More than 1,500 people died.

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■ **RETIREMENT:** United Way of South Niagara executive director leaving at the end of June

Peter Papp is passing the torch

VICTORIA GRAY
InPort News Staff

WELLAND — For some people retirement means relaxing, hitting the golf course and living the good life.

But not for Peter Papp.

"I couldn't see myself out on the golf course every day. For one thing, I'm terrible at it. Going golfing is like going to war for me," he says. The executive director for the United Way of South Niagara retires June 30, after putting in more than three years with the organization.

"It's been a great run, I've really enjoyed my time here," he says. "But both personally and professionally, 2011 was tough. It's time for a rest."

However, what a dedicated social justice and anti-poverty advocate calls rest might be considered non-stop work.

"A friend of mine says I have ants in my pants. I can't help it, I'm a type A personality. I just can't stop."

Papp doesn't intend to step away from his political duties as a Ward 3 councillor in Pelham and he intends to continue to lobby government and different organizations to step up anti-poverty measures.

He also wants to continue to help the United Way and the organizations it funds grow and prosper, build resiliency and raise more money to get more projects on the

go.

"The United Way needs to be much more extroverted," he says. "We need to be able to show people what we have done, to help to produce results if we want people's money and we need to work collaboratively with governments and the private sectors to change situations."

The United Way agencies of Niagara are working toward a merger and Papp supports that completely because he saw great successes and improvements when he worked at the YMCA when its agencies merged.

United Way of South Niagara has posted a job ad for an operations and marketing director who will replace Papp. He has high hopes the organization will find someone before he leaves.

Papp will also continue his involvement with the Niagara Community Foundation, Rotary Club of Welland and other organizations.

In two weeks he plans to go to Bangkok, Thailand, for a Rotary International conference and see some sights.

He hopes to spend much more time with his son, Andrew, and his golden Labrador, Casey the Convict.

Above all he wants to create a poverty-free Welland.

"I grew up in the east end of Welland and there were a lot of different ethnicities there, and when somebody was in trouble they all helped out. It didn't matter where you came from," he says.

"That's where I get (my passion for creating change). I want everyone to help out, I want to pass that on to everyone and to the youth especially because they are going to carry this torch."



Papp



NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

293 King Street
Louis J. Shickluna Garage
City of Port Colborne, Regional Municipality of Niagara

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the City of Port Colborne intends to designate 293 King Street as a property of cultural heritage value under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O.18.

REASONS FOR THE PROPOSED DESIGNATION

This property meets several criteria required for designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act. The site is culturally significant because of its design and physical value as well as historical and associative value.

The Shickluna Garage was constructed in 1925 and was the first building in Port Colborne designed specifically to cater to the growing automobile trade.

The property has design or physical value because it is a rare, unique, representative and early example of a style of construction method, and it displays a high degree of artistic merit.

The structure is built in a quasi-Mediterranean/Southwest style (possibly an interpretation of California Mission). A massive canopy juts out from the King Street facade of the garage supported in the front by large columns which flare out from the bottom quarter of their height. A distinctive parapet wall with a decidedly southern flavour is built above the canopy perimeter and the main facades of the garage. Red metal tiles, imitating clay barrel roof tiles cover the decorative roof surrounding the parapet wall. Under this decorative roof the soffit is made of wood tongue and groove boards. Two small low walls are built between the two columns with curved tops that vary in height, but that are always less than two feet in height with a gap of about five feet in between. The walls and columns are whitewashed smooth stucco on structural tile masonry units. There are original leaded glass windows above the large plate glass windows on the west and north elevations and the original ceiling inside the building is largely intact.

The property has historical value or associative value because it has direct associations with the Shickluna family, shipbuilders by trade, who settled in Canada from Malta in 1830. Louis Shickluna, uncle of Louis J. Shickluna, established the Port Colborne shipyard, known as Shickluna Brothers, in the 1860's. In 1925, the Federal Government expropriated all of East Street (the location of Shickluna Brothers) for canal widening and Louis J. Shickluna constructed a new garage and auto showroom at 293 King Street. In 1939, Louis J. Shickluna sold the garage to the Imperial Oil Company. In 1940 it was operated by Reginald J. Doan as Doan's Service Station and remained in service until 1993.

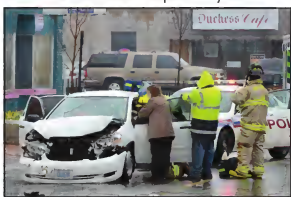
This property was designated a National Historic Site by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board in 1995.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE any person may, within thirty (30) days after the date of publication of this notice, send by registered mail or deliver to the Clerk of the City of Port Colborne notice of his or her objection to the proposed designation together with a statement setting out the reasons for the objection and all relevant facts. If such Notice of Objection is received, the Council of the Corporation of the City of Port Colborne shall refer the matter to the Conservation Review Board for a hearing.

Dated the 20th of April, 2012.

Ashley Grigg, City Clerk
66 Charlotte Street
Port Colborne, ON
L3K 3C8

■ **COLLISION:** Driver taken to hospital with injuries



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Port Colborne Fire and Emergency Services firefighters and Niagara EMS paramedics work on a victim involved in a collision on Main St. W in Port Colborne on Sunday. It was unknown at the time what the car hit, but its front end was smashed in and no other vehicles were seen in the immediate area. The collision took place shortly before noon on Main St. between Church St. and Weir Rd. The patient was transported to Welland hospital with unknown injuries.

■ **YARD SALE:** Donations welcome for May event

Old bottles and toys to aid feral cat initiative

VICTORIA GRAY
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — The Port Colborne Feline Initiative will host its biannual yard sale and bottle drive next month in support of its spay and neuter clinic, Operation CatSnips. The event will be held at

St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church Hall on King St. on Saturday, May 5, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Donations for the yard sale and alcohol bottles and cans for the bottle drive can be dropped off at the hall on Friday, May 4, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Yard sale donations can

include children's toys and household knick knacks, gently used furniture and anything that can fetch a price to help support the clinic.

PCFI vice-president Wendy Ross says feral cat colonies can grow very quickly.

"Each time a cat is spayed or neutered, the birth rate is

lowered significantly, resulting in fewer homeless, abandoned or euthanized cats and kittens."

Without the spay and neuter clinic PCFI wouldn't be able to reduce the number of kittens feral colonies produce in the area.

"It's really important to stop their breeding to reduce

the number of cats living outdoors and suffering," she

The organization has put more than 400 cats through the trap, neuter and release program and has helped find permanent homes for 40 cats and kittens.

The organization hopes to raise \$2,000 this spring

to help with new and old initiatives.

PCFI has also started a spay and neuter assistance program for Port Cares clients.

"The people at Port Cares have less access to resources to pay for it so we think it's important to assist them," Ross says.

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■ **EDUCATION:** Qualifier for provincial finals held at college

ALLAN BENNER Staff Photo

Centennial Secondary School student James VanderVeen works on a dog house he was building during a Skills Ontario qualifying match at Niagara College Saturday.

Technology students showcase skills

ALLAN BENNER
InPort News Staff

WELLAND — Mike Nicholas walked through the welding shop at Niagara College offering words of advice and encouragement to the students as they welded together a complex project Saturday.

They weren't the students the welding techniques instructor normally works with — at least not yet.

However, in a year or so, Nicholas hopes many of the seniors high school students from throughout the Golden Horseshoe area will enroll in his program.

He was impressed with the skills they'd already learned at the high school level.

"Nice job. How long have you been welding?" Nicholas asked as he checked in on Tyler Stephenson, a student from Halton.

"Not even a year now," Stephenson replied.

Nicholas said some of the nine students participating in the welding competition during the Skills Ontario qualifier at the college Saturday told him they "plan on actually registering for the fall intake for the welding techniques program."

For the students participating in the

competition was also an opportunity to see the facilities the college has to offer, where they can learn a trade that holds a lot of potential.

"There's a lot of work coming up in this field right now. Even in this area, manufacturing is starting to come back and (employers) are looking for welders," Nicholas said.

Welding was one of several competitions where the high school students had a chance to showcase their skills.

About 60 students from Niagara and as far away as Hamilton, Halton and the Simcoe area also visited the college to compete in carpentry, culinary arts, small engines, TV video production and character animation competitions during the eighth-annual event.

Qualifiers from Welland advance to the Ontario Technological Skills Competition at April 30-May 2 at RIM Park in Waterloo.

Organizing committee member Don Webb led 11 students who were showing their individual carpentry skills by building dog houses.

"They're doing it blindly, they've never seen these drawings before. We surprised them with them when they arrive," he said. "We say 'Here's your project, here's your lumber, here's the instructions. Go do it. We can't tell you nothing.'"

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New Book Club forming at the Port Colborne Library. Information and registration meetings will be held Tuesday, May 22 and Monday, May 28 from 1:30-2:30 p.m. in the library auditorium. Check out this great chance to become an active member of a book club at

the library.

Library Downloads Seminar, Monday, May 7 from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Join us for a free demonstration and learn how to install download software, select, check out and download ebooks and audiobooks from the library's download site to your home computer and transfer ebooks and audiobooks

to your portable device. Free. Space is limited. Sign up at the Library today.

Art In The Atrium featuring paintings by Diana Hinman. On display in the Atrium until July 15.

Knitting: Spring Session Tuesday evenings, March 20 to May 15 from 7 - 9 p.m. and Thursday afternoons March 29 to May 17 from 1-3 p.m. For more information on the

Knitting Club schedule of classes or to join the Knitters' Club, call Vicki Fritz at 905-835-5373

Tot-Time with Stacey, Thursday, May 3 from 10:30 -11:30 a.m. Stories, crafts and games, for children ages 2 to 4, with their parents/caregivers. Cost is \$1 per child per week. Pre-register at the library.

Kids' Yoga with Nadia Esposito. For ages 4 to 12, Tuesdays from

4 - 5 p.m. Ten-week session beginning Tues., April 10 to June 12. Cost is \$40 pre-paid or \$5 a class for drop-in. To register call Nadia at 905-329-9841

Will Bowling for Seniors. Join us the third Wednesday of the month, September to June, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m., for an afternoon of fun, low-impact exercise, and a bit of friendly competition. Free admission.

Films for Seniors, presented

on the first Wednesday of the month, September to June, at 1:30 p.m. Free admission. Free refreshments.

One-on-One Computer Lessons. Saturday mornings at the library. \$10 per person per one-hour lesson. Pre-registration required. Lessons geared toward your interests. Topics include: e-mail, Facebook, Twitter, blogging, creating simple websites, and more. Call the library at 905-834-6512 for an appointment.



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Health Care Training Program - PSW Information Sessions

10 month programs (Sept to June)

Personal Support Worker

Session Location & Program Description (attend at site you are interested in)

Information Session (attend one session)

Lifesize Learning Centre
535 Lake Street, St. Catharines
Day Program

Port Colborne High School
211 Elgin Street, Port Colborne
Day Program - Room 314

Oakwood Park Lodge
6747 Oakwood Drive, Niagara Falls
Eve & Wknd Program - Garden Rm

Alternative, Adult, & Community Education
905-667-7000
psw@dsbn.org

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■ **HUMANE SOCIETY:** Storefront location celebrates official opening Thursday

Adoption centre at mall cat's meow



ALLAN BENNER
Tribune Staff

WELLAND — They've already found homes for more than a dozen cats since opening the doors of the Welland and District Humane Society's adoption centre at the Seaway Mall a few weeks ago.

"It's been great. People are loving it," Tammy Gabbury, the humane society's adoption co-ordinator, said.

And the humane society hasn't even held an official grand opening for the adop-

tion centre. That takes place Thursday.

Gabbury said the storefront location allows people who might otherwise not make the trip to the humane society at 60 Provincial St. to see cats that are available for adoption.

"Some of the adoptions probably happened that way. People see something they like and fall in love," she added.

There aren't very many humane societies with storefront mall locations, with the exception of the Niagara

Falls Humane Society which has run an adoption centre at Niagara Square for three years.

"They've done really well there. It's nice for this area," Gabbury said.

The humane society is also offering a special price for cat adoptions — \$140, including spaying or neutering, microchips and booster shots.

"Everything is done. It's taken care of. They're getting a great deal for that adoption price."

allan.benner@sunmedia.ca

LEFT: Seven-year-old Kade McLean met Rosie, one of several dogs up for adoption at the Welland and District Humane Society. The dogs were at the Fonthill Plaza Saturday during a barbecue in front of the Pet Valu store held to raise money for the humane society's spay and neuter program.

RIGHT: Frank and Carla Dedonato from Studio Twenty Inc. do their part for the fundraiser by flipping some burgers



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Hearing instruments are uncomfortable and unattractive.

Ironically, this myth persists because modern hearing instruments, like Agil, are so well concealed that most people never see them. The styles most people see in public are actually older generation units worn either directly in the ear or in a large behind-the-ear case. Instruments nowadays are an astonishing blend of camouflage and miniaturization that disappear behind the ear, tinted to blend with your hair or skin color. They are ultra-light, and you barely feel the receiver as it hovers over your ear canal and delivers sparkling, vibrant sound.

MYTH #3

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Hearing technology has come a long way.

In the beginning, there was the ear trumpet. Its advantages were that it did the job (more or less) and didn't require batteries. That was a good thing, because a battery in those days weighed about 30 pounds. Disadvantages? Just look at it!



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